DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket RSPA-98-4957; Notice 9] - 10

Notice of Extension of Existing Information Collection Comments

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Research and Special Programs Administration's (RSPA) is publishing its intention to renew an existing information collection in support of the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) for Management Information System (MIS) Standardized Data Collection and Reporting of Drug Testing Materials. The purpose of this notice is to allow the public 60 days from the date of this notice to send in their comments.

RSPA believes that its drug testing requirements are an important tool for operators to monitor drug usage in the industry. RSPA has found that drug use

in the pipeline industry is less than one percent of all covered employees.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by December 2 1, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments should identify the docket number of this notice, RSPA-98-4957, and be mailed to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 40 1,400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001. You should submit the original and one copy. If you wish to receive confirmation of receipt of your comments, you must include a stamped, self-addressed postcard. The Dockets facility is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays. In addition, the public may also submit or review comments by accessing the Docket Management System's home page at http:// dms.dot.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marvin Fell, Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-6205 or by electronic mail at marvin.fell@rspa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Management Information System (MIS) Standardized Data Collection and Reporting of Drug Testing Materials.

OMB Number: 2137-0579. Type *of* Request: Extension of an existing information collection.

Abstract: Drug abuse is a major societal problem and it is reasonable to assume the problem exists in the pipeline industry as it does in society as a whole. The potential harmful effect of drug abuse on safe pipeline operations warrants imposing comprehensive drug testing regulations on the pipeline industry. These rules are found in 49 CFR part 199. These regulations require annual information collection of the results of the drug testing program.

Estimate of Burden: The average burden hours per response is approximately 6 hours.

Respondents: Pipeline operators. Es tima ted Number of Respondents: 2,149.

Es tima ted Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 12,809 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be reviewed at the Dockets Facility, Plaza 401, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW. Washington, DC 20590 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday except Federal holidays. They also can be

viewed over the Internet at http://dms.dot.gov.

Comments are invited on: (a) The need for the proposed collection of information for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques.

Issued in Washington, DC on October 15, 1999.

Richard B. Felder,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety. [FR Doc. 99-27667 Filed 10-21-99; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 491060-P